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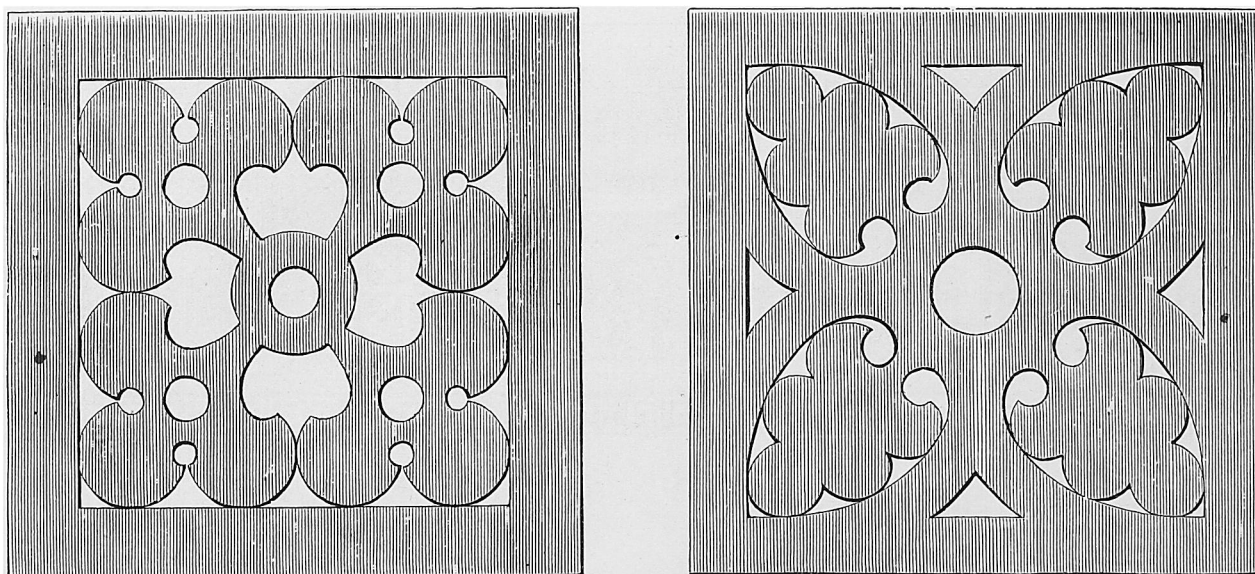
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Nos. 18 and 19. Ornaments in Perforated Wood. Mr. P. Petsch, Saarbrück.

VARIOUS.

The Vienna Exhibition.

The rotunda of the Exhibition building in Vienna is over 240 ft. high; each pillar supporting the heavy ceiling is large enough to contain a small summer-house. Seen from the floor, people in the first gallery appear like dwarfs, the Victories decorating the panels of the jute lining of the ceiling, which, seen from below, appear like half-grown girls, are in reality figures 21 ft., high and are consequently four times the natural size. During the opening ceremonies, at the moment when the imperial and princely personages made their appearance, over 7000 persons were assembled in the rotunda, but notwithstanding this, there were empty spaces of from 120 ft. to 180 ft. long, and 30 ft. to 36 ft. wide. The colossal lion, sent for exhibition by a Parisian firm, which, with the pedestal is of the height of a middling-sized house, does not look at all imposing, but has merely the appearance of having been expressly made for the decoration of the rotunda. The extraordinary dimensions of the greater, and those of the smaller, lantern, as well as the imposing light arcades with the gigantic windows, all of which must be seen to be appreciated, are sufficient reasons for the fact that, even during rainy weather it is so bright in the rotunda that pencil-notes may be read easily, and without straining the eyesight. With all this grandeur, these gigantic proportions have no heavy and oppressive effect.

The Builder.

Porous Tile Roofs.

For this evil there is a most simple and cheap remedy. Give the tiles a coat of coal tar, which can be obtained at a trifling cost from any gas works. One coat will answer the purpose; two are better. There is not the slightest objection as a matter of taste to the color of the tar — a dark brown color, just the color of an old tile roof stained with age; — but if a red or grey color is desired, sift fine sand of either color over the roof whilst the tar is wet; it will adhere firmly.

The Builder.

Chinese Arithmetic.

The Chinese have a most ingenious method of reckoning by the aid of the fingers, performing all the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, with numbers from 1 up to 100,000. Every finger of the left hand represents nine figures, as follows: — The little finger represents units, the ring finger tens, the middle finger hundreds, the forefinger thousands, the thumb tens of thousands. When the three joints of each finger are touched from the palm towards the tip they count one, two, and three of each of the denominations as above named. Four, five, and six are counted on the back of the finger joints in the same way; seven, eight, and nine are counted on the right side of the joints from the palm to the tip. The forefinger of the right hand is used as a pointer. Thus, 1234 would be indicated by first touching the joint of the forefinger next the hand on the inside; next the middle joint of the middle finger on the inside; next the end joint of the ring finger on the inside; and finally the joint of the little finger next the hand on the outside. The reader will be able to make further examples for himself.

Scientific American.

An Ancient Glass Cup.

An interesting archaeological discovery has just been made by a peasant while ploughing in the neighbourhood of Arles, Bouches du Rhone, consisting of an ancient glass cup. It is composed of two portions: one in simple ordinary glass, forming the vase, whilst the second is an ornament in red glass superposed. This latter forms a series of ovals, united by knots curiously interlaced. On one of the sides is a Latin inscription, which has been deciphered, "Divus Maximianus Augustus". This object therefore belonged to the Emperor Maximianus Hercules, who resided in Gaul for a considerable time. As was rather usual, the cup has no foot.